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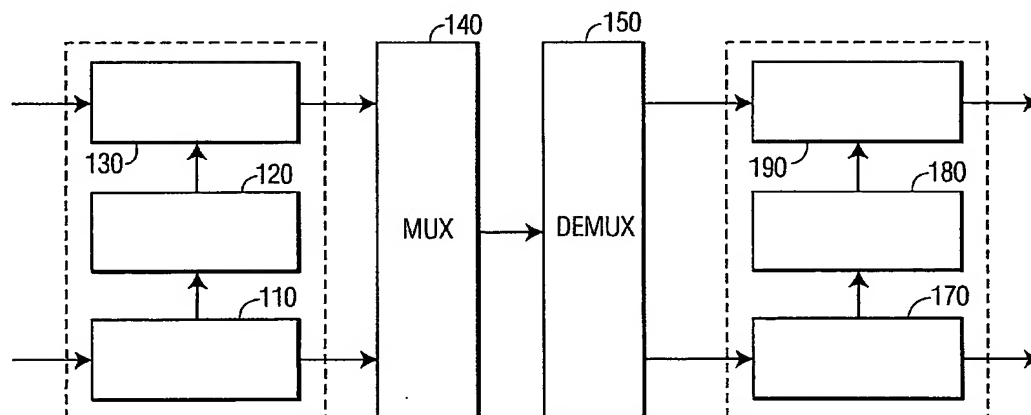
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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IMPROVED SCALABILITY SUPPORT IN MPEG-2 SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: A heterogeneous layered video decoding system and associated method is disclosed that provides for flexible and cost effective scalability through the use of generic decoders (e.g., MPEG-2/4/AVC) at each layer instead of decoders specifically designed for scalable systems. In one embodiment, additional signaling information (220) embodied as a parameter list is transmitted along with the transport stream (250). The parameter list independently defines for each layer (BS, ES), how the particular layer is to be decoded. In this manner, a trade-off between complexity and efficiency is achieved. For example, the base layer (BS) may employ a sophisticated base layer AVC codec, while one or more enhancement layers (ES) may use an MPEG-2 codec that is half as complex as a full AVC codec but only slightly less efficient.



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